

OBITUARY

BEGUM ZAIDI

The staff of the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the National School of Drama passed a resolution mourning her death.

Begum Qudsia Zaidi, President of the Delhi Natya Sangh and wife of Col. B. H. Zaidi, Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University, died in Aligarh on December 27 at the age of 46. She was connected with several cultural and social organisations in the capital. The Natya Academy started last year by the Natya Sangh to train actors and directors of plays, owed its existence to her efforts. She was also the Secretary and Convener of the Hindustani Theatre. An author of a number of children's book including the prize-winning "Our Bapu", Begum Zaidi won the prize for the best book for children in Hindi for 1956-57 awarded by the Ministry of Education. She was closely associated with the Shankar's Children's Paintings Exhibitions and many other children's activities.

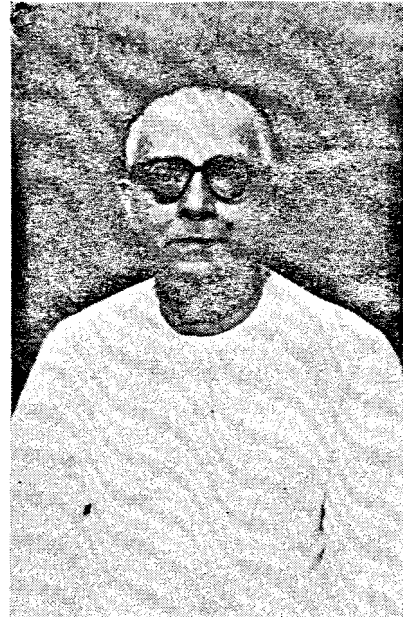
SHRI T. N. SWAMINATHA PILLAI

The Sangeet Natak Akademi passed a condolence resolution on February 28, 1961, on the sad demise of Shri T. N. Swaminatha Pillai, who was the recipient of the Akademi Award in Karnatic Instrumental (flute) Music for 1960-61.

Shri T. N. Swaminatha Pillai was born on 12th September, 1899 at Tiruppamparam, a village in Tanjore in the State of Madras. He comes of a family of musicians and music scholars. For his outstanding merit in flute he received the title of Sangeetha Kalanidhi from Music Academy, Madras, and of Sangeetha Kala Sikhamani from the Indian Fine Arts Society of Madras. For five years he worked as a Professor of Music in the Annamalai University and for twelve years as Music Professor in the Central College of Karnatic

Music, Adyar, Madras. He was the author of five well-known books on Karnatic Music. For his distinguished career in the field of Instrumental Music of the Karnatic School he was nominated this year for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

SHRI SACHIN SEN GUPTA



The Staff of the Sangeet Natak Akademi conveyed its sentiments of grief on March 8, 1961, to the members of the bereaved family of late Shri Sachin Sen Gupta, a veteran playwright of Bengal, who died on March 5, 1961. He was a member of the General Council and of the Finance Committee of the Akademi, and associated with it in various other ways since its establishment.

Born in 1891 at Sentrati, a village in Khulna district, Shri Sen Gupta was educated at the National Council of Education founded in 1906 by Shri Aurobindo and other political

leaders. In his early life he was associated with revolutionary activities. Later on he took to journalism as profession and life's mission and worked as editor for papers owned by Shri Aurobindo and Shri Subhas Bose. At the same time he began writing for the Bengali stage. He has to his credit 32 plays including a few renderings. All of them have been staged in several Bengali theatres. More than a dozen of them were acclaimed to be hits having a continuous run exceeding hundred nights each. Many of his plays are broadcast and eight of them have been recorded by the Gramophone Company Ltd. He has been a favourite of

two successive generations and the stage artists of Calcutta had honoured him by an address of appreciation and by a presentation of a purse containing Rs. 5,500/- and several other gifts. He has been associated with various theatre groups including the Indian People's Theatre Association, the Bohurupee and Little Theatre.

He was the leader of the Cultural Delegation organised by the All India Peace Council to the People's Republic of China where he was received by the Chairman, Mao Tse Tung and honoured by a State banquet.

